

OCT 10 2001

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10 SPEAKER UPPER RIGHT: Hello, my name is Joseph
11 Carruthers, C-A-R-R-U-T-H-E-R-S. I'm a resident of
12 Crescent Valley, Nevada, and I'm here to read the
13 testimony of the Governor, Kenny Quinn. And this is to
14 the U.S. Department Of Energy and the public hearing,
15 September 5, 2001.

16 Good evening. On behalf of the citizens of
17 State of Nevada I would like to welcome you here this
18 evening and hope my remarks and the remarks of many
19 concerned Nevadans who will speak later will be taken in
20 the spirit in which they are intended. That is, honest,
21 constructive, and impassioned public input on an issue
22 that is paramount to the health and safety of every
23 Nevadan and every American whose home, school or place of
24 business sits along the proposed paths that the deadliest

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1 substance on earth, if the DOE has its way, will take to
2 Nevada.

3 This debate is not new. As many of you know,
4 Nevada's fight to keep the nuclear waste repository from
5 coming to Yucca Mountain has raged on for nearly 20 years.
6 Unlike many of the policy battles that grip Washington,

7 however, this fight transcends party affiliation,
8 socio-economic classes, race or gender and galvanizes
9 Nevadans from every corner of the state in opposition.

10 Though the debate is not new, I must say that
11 the recent developments, those that bring us here tonight,
12 are quite alarming and raise a number of new concerns.

13 The very purpose for this meeting is in
14 question. You've invited me and many good people here
15 tonight so that you and the Department of Energy can
16 gather public comment on scientific evidence that is not
17 complete and has not been made public. Public comment is
18 the absence of this all-important evidence is premature
19 and grossly irresponsible.

20 Ladies and gentlemen, this is not the way we do
21 business in Nevada and certainly this is not the way the
22 government should handle its affairs.

23 I'm very disappointed that you've chosen to
24 disregard essentially all of any offices' recommendations

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1 and decided to hold these meetings prematurely and over
2 our reasonable objections.

3 We in Nevada will not stand for it.

4 Therefore, I would strongly advise and today

5 formally request that you schedule additional hearings
6 over the course of the coming months across Nevada to give
7 our citizens and their elected leaders a fair and
8 appropriate chance to respond to your completed findings.

9 And, I assure you, my outrage at the lack of
10 protocol that has permeated this process will be detailed
11 in letters to Secretary Abraham and the President.

12 It is my sincerest hope that you recognize this
13 error and your duty to correct it. I don't have to remind
14 anyone here today that it was not long ago that Nevadans
15 and all Americans was assured that nuclear testing was
16 safe.

17 It was less than 50 years ago.

18 Since that time, the Department of Energy
19 admitted that the aftermath of testing of the hydrogen
20 bomb at Yucca flats caused innocent Americans to die and
21 that cancer benefits should be paid to the families of the
22 dozens of men and women who were contaminated by the
23 fallout from the nuclear testing.

24 I'm not talking about casualties of war in some

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1 distant country.

2 I'm talking about the small farmers in

3 neighboring Utah who tragically suffered from the
4 contaminated nuclear air.

5 And I'm talking about the Nevada workers and
6 their families who took the government at its word and
7 trudged to and from the test site every day with the
8 assurances that they were not in harms way.

9 And I'm talking of generations of patriotic
10 American families financially wiped out fighting cancer
11 while they awaited some word of admission or assistance
12 from their government.

13 The DOE pathetically only made that admission
14 just a few years ago, and it came only after years of
15 denial and government red tape.

16 Just yesterday we learned for the first time
17 that germ warfare testing, imagine, germ warfare testing
18 was conducted at the same test site without any knowledge
19 whatsoever by our own congressional delegation or my
20 office.

21 With a track record like this, it is no wonder
22 that the Department of Energy lacks credibility not only
23 in Nevada but also in the neighboring states.

24 Given the history, I trust you can understand

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1 why I view this proceeding as morally illegal, if not
2 technically so.

3 It violates everything that we believe in as
4 Americans. It duplicates all that was wrong in the past
5 and gives credence to the mistrust and cynicism harbored
6 by so many of our people.

7 Our concerns are clear. This wonderful state
8 has been ignored for far too long. We demand fairness,
9 and we demand accountability in this process. We'll not
10 sit idly by and let the Department of Energy run roughshod
11 over our citizens with empty promises and bad science.

12 We did it once in good faith as proud and loyal
13 Americans. But sadly we did not get back what we gave.
14 Sadly we have learned from the past, and we're not about
15 to repeat it.

16 These are my comments I just want to add on here
17 myself. I've been fighting the issue for sometime now and
18 I myself cannot believe our own government would attempt
19 to do something like this to one of its own states.

20 As I stated one time not long ago in Elko, if I
21 looked at it in the view from a psychologist, Nevada would
22 be the abused child and Washington the mother and for too
23 long has been in denial of what she's done to her own

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24 child and I think it's about time that we all grow up and

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1 stop this madness and start working for a better future

2 for our people and our country and the world. Thank you.